

**APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE
7th CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COMMISSION
CLAY COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI**

**ATTACH
PHOTO
HERE**

I am applying for the position of Associate Circuit Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit.

1. Full Name: _____ SSN: _____
2. Residential Address: _____
Home Telephone Number: _____
3. Office Address: _____
Business Telephone Number: _____
4. Are you at least 25 years of age?
Yes () No ()
5. Are you a member in good standing of The Missouri Bar? Yes () No ()
(A) Date admitted to The Missouri Bar: _____
(B) Bar Number: _____
6. Are you a qualified voter in Missouri?
Yes () No ()

7. Are you a resident of Clay County?

Yes () No ()

8. Are you a citizen of the United States?

Yes () No ()

9. Describe your experience as a lawyer in chronological order. Include all partnerships, professional corporations, associations, and governmental agencies with whom you have practiced law.

[illegible]

10. Education

- (A) List every law school attended and degrees, activities, scholastic and other law school awards.

- (B) List all other colleges or universities attended, degrees, activities, scholastic and other awards.

- (C) If you were a student at any school from which you were suspended, placed on probation, or expelled by school authorities, for any reason, describe the circumstances.

11. Have you ever held public office? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, what office(s)? Dates?

12. Non-Lawyer Activities:
(A) Affiliations outside the legal profession.

- (B) Non-lawyer occupations or professions in which you have engaged.

13. List bar associations and professional organizations to which you belong and bar committees on which you serve or have served. Include offices that you hold or have held in bar associations and committees that you chair or have chaired.

14. List any professional articles or books authored by you that have been published. Note special recognitions or awards of a professional nature that you have received.

15. Are you aware of any condition that will restrict your performance as an associate circuit court judge? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, what reasonable accommodations do you need to perform the duties of the position?

16. Have you ever been suspended, disqualified or disbarred from practicing law? Has your license to practice law been censured or disciplined? Are disciplinary proceedings pending against you as a lawyer or a judge? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, please explain.

17. Have you ever been sued by a client? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, state the style of the case, where it was filed, and the details.

18. Have you ever been sued by anyone who is not a client? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, state the style of the case, where it was filed, and the details.

19. Have you ever been arrested, taken into custody by a law enforcement officer or agency, or been indicted or otherwise charged (state, military or federal), convicted or tried for a misdemeanor or felony? Yes () No ()
If your answer is yes, state the style of the case, court number, citation, location of the trial court, the appellate court that reviewed the judgment (if applicable), and the date of the conviction.

20. Are you delinquent in the payment of any federal, state, county or city taxes? Yes () No () If your answer is yes, state details.

21. List and describe any awards or honors that you have received that have not been disclosed above.

22. State any additional information that you want the commission to know about you, such as your civic activities, volunteer work, military service, and family.

23. No more than five persons may mail a letter of reference with respect to your character and judicial qualifications. See instructions for deadline for submission. **DO NOT INCLUDE AS A REFERENCE ANY ACTIVE SITTING JUDGES FROM THE CIRCUIT FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING.** List the names of the persons from whom each member of the commission will receive letters:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

24. (A) If you are presently a **judge or a commissioner of any court or an administrative law judge and have served in this position for two years or longer**, you may attach a list of significant cases (not to exceed five) over which you have presided to completion. Set forth the style, case number, and, to the best of your ability, the names of the primary attorneys who participated in each case, identifying the party each attorney represented. Indicate whether the case was bench or jury tried and give a one-to-three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

You also may attach a list (not to exceed five) of the most significant cases you tried as an attorney in the five years immediately preceding your becoming a judge, commissioner or administrative law judge. Set forth the style, case number, date, court, and identify whom you represented, whether you were first or second chair,

and, to the best of your ability, the names of opposing counsel. Indicate for each case whether it was bench or jury tried, and give a one-to-three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

(B) If you have **not served as a judge or a commissioner of any court or as an administrative law judge for two years or longer**, you may attach a list (not to exceed five) of the most significant cases you tried as an attorney in the last five years. State the style, case number, date, court, whom you represented, whether you were first or second chair, and, to the best of your ability, the names of opposing counsel. Indicate for each case whether it was bench or jury tried and give a one-to-three sentence description of each case and its outcome.

(C) **If your experience as an attorney is not in litigation**, you may attach a list of your most significant accomplishments in your law career (not to exceed five).

(D) **For all applicants**, please describe in detail your experience in terms of how much civil experience, criminal experience and jury trial experience you have throughout your career.

I hereby certify that all statements made above are correct, and that if I am selected by the commission and appointed as provided by law, I will accept the appointment, qualify, and promptly (within the time permitted by law) assume the position and commence the performance of the duties of the office for which I seek appointment.

By my signature to this form, I waive any objections and rights I have with reference to the privacy of all information contained in the answers to this form, to information related to the questions or to answers to the questions and to law enforcement or disciplinary records pertaining to, or relevant to, me.

I authorize all law enforcement authorities and educational institutions to release to the commission any records pertaining to me, and I authorize the commission to make whatever inquiries and to receive whatever information it shall deem appropriate in fulfilling its duties, understanding that such information will be accessible to the members of the 7th Circuit Judicial Commission in the performance of their duties and, if nominated as a member of the panel, to the Governor of Missouri and his immediate subordinates and to such other entities or individuals only if disclosure is required by law or court order.

Date

Signature

**INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS
ASSOCIATE CIRCUIT JUDGE VACANCY
7th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

1. Complete the attached application and **file the original with Chief Judge Victor C. Howard at the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District. Send** copies to the other members of the 7th Circuit Judicial Commission; **do not hand deliver unless requested to do so by a Commissioner.** Their names and addresses are listed below. Attach additional answer sheets to the application, if needed.

2. Your references should mail or deliver his or her original letter of reference to Judge Howard at the Court of Appeals and send **a copy to the other members of the commission.**

3. The completed application and letters of reference must be received by Judge Howard before **4:30 P.M. on Friday, February 15, 2008.** Applications and letters of reference will be used in the selection process only.

4. The commission will jointly interview each applicant on **Friday, February 22, 2008,** at the Clay County Courthouse, Justice Center, 11 South Water Street, Liberty, Missouri. The applicant is responsible for contacting the office of Terence G. Lord, Clerk of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, (816) 889-3600, after 10:00 A.M. on February 20, 2008, to determine when the applicant is scheduled to meet with the commission.

5. Applicants should review Supreme Court Rule 10.32.

6. Members of the 7th Circuit Judicial Commission are:

JUDICIAL MEMBER:

The Honorable Victor C. Howard
Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District
1300 Oak Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
816-889-3626
vhoward@courts.mo.gov

LAWYER MEMBERS:

Mike Shipley
204 A East Kansas
Liberty, Missouri 64068
816-781-0299 (office)
816-781-4088
mshipley@mshipleyllc.com

T. K. Thompson
200 W. Mill
Liberty, Missouri 64068
816-792-4750
thompsonlaw@kc.rr.com

LAY MEMBERS:

Lancer G. Gates
2008 N.E. 106th Terr.
Kansas City, Missouri 64115
816-734-9911
lancer.stacey@sbcglobal.net

Melisa (Lisa) Essig
16620 NE 121 Terrace
Kearney, Missouri 64060
816-628-5315
ldessig@sbcglobal.net

Seventh Circuit Judicial Commission Information About Our Decision Process

As members of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Commission, we have been asked certain questions with great frequency. Therefore, we believe that most judicial applicants may be interested in additional clarification of the process.

- Each commissioner is diligent to become familiar with the capabilities of all applicants by reviewing each application, reading the reference letters, receiving telephone recommendations, and participating in the group interviews.
- We are not, nor have we ever been, contacted by the Governor or anyone on his behalf regarding either our work in this process or any individual involved in this process. All current commissioners have confirmed this position.
- Without exception, no commissioner discusses applicants with any other commissioner until all interviews are completed.
- Missouri Supreme Court Rule 10.29 requires that “voting on persons under consideration shall be by secret ballot.” While applicants may be discussed during the commissioners’ deliberation, all actual voting is by secret ballot. Cumulative voting is prohibited whereby a commissioner casts multiple votes on the same ballot for the same candidate. Supreme Court Rule 10.32(g). Furthermore, we discuss neither our votes nor our deliberations after the fact. By Supreme Court Rule (10.28) our meetings are an executive session and all matters discussed are confidential.
- Our duty is to select the three best qualified nominees. It is our duty to prevent partisan consideration, political or otherwise, from outweighing judicial fitness. Supreme Court Rule 10.31.
- The public, the bar, and the judiciary is permitted to provide comments to the commission, orally or in writing. These comments are kept confidential. Supreme Court Rule 10.32.

We welcome your questions about the process. That the public, the judiciary, and the lawyers understand how we do our work is important. We all appreciate the chance to serve as commissioners. We thank you for your interest in the Clay County judiciary.

The Commission:

Victor C. Howard
Floyd A. White
T. K. Thompson
Lancer G. Gates
Melisa Essig